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GENIUS A DISEASE.

Scientists Find That Malformation of Brain Causes Brilliance.

Overdevelopment of One Part Follows Injury to Another Portion—Work of Celebrities Under Affliction.

That disease and deformities due to accident or prenatal conditions develop genuine genius along certain lines is a theory formulated and lately announced by cablegram from Paris, where psychologists have been making experiments in that field. Chicago physicians who have given the subject attention say that the theory is undoubtedly correct, relates the Chronicle, of that city. The experiments of psychologists and the research work of alienists point to the same conclusion. Many eminent examples are at hand to demonstrate that the theory is correct. Experiments of this nature are in their infancy so far as specifically directed work is concerned. Some phenomena of this kind have been discovered at times in the past, but the doctrine has never been formulated to show that a man's genius lies in a certain scope according to his deformity until the French psychologists made their announcement.

An eminent psychologist in Paris recently examined the brain and works of M. Berthelot, the renowned chemist, to ascertain the cause of his intuitive discoveries. It is announced that M. Berthelot had malarial fever when but five years old and that two years later he struck his forehead a stunning blow against a millstone. This blow depressed the cranium and irradiated the frontal lobes of the brain. The peculiar genius of the great French chemist is said to be due to this accident.

Nerve and brain specialists say that such an accident would not doubt cause the entire strength of a man to go to another part of the brain and thus develop the well-nurtured part abnormally. In other words, a blow or a sickness may result in the lopsided development of the brain, thus rendering a man peculiarly bright on a certain subject.

It is pointed out that Milton wrote his "Paradise Lost" while he was blind, and it is said that the blindness confined his mind to a certain scope in a manner that made it possible for him to evolve the great epic.

Cases of a somewhat different nature are shown in the elegant writings of Thomas De Quincey and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, both of whom had brains in which the excessive use of opium had made havoc. De Quincey describes his horrible experience with opium taken in the form of laudanum in his "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater."

Lord Byron, who wrote so beautifully that even the French made his works a favorite and lauded his ideas to the skies, probably never would have developed the genius necessary to thus charm nations if he had not had a club foot. Nearly all of Sir Walter Scott's late novels were dictated from a sickbed, and they display a peculiar genius.

Mozart and Wagner both had deformed brains, said to have been due to disease and bumps while they were children. Prof. Hertel, of Berlin, who was formerly professor in the University of Leipzig, has the skull and brain of Mozart, and it shows peculiar deformities which differ but slightly from the malformation of the skull of Richard Wagner. Dean Swift also suffered from an incurable disease which the theorists say inspired his works.

"The formulated theory that disease develops genius is new to most persons," said Dr. Francis W. McNamara, "but it is old in its ragged conceptions. That is to say, the alienists have noticed that men of genius often have had peculiarly shaped brains and skulls. No one has heretofore given the matter so broad a scope as to say that all genius is the result of a malformation due to disease, drugs or accident. It is no doubt true that a man cannot be a genius in more than one line. Then why should one man take to one sort of occupation while another man with similar environments seeks for an outlet for his energy in an entirely different line? It is undoubtedly because the condition of his brain, due to the stunting of some parts, is developed in one particular direction. I do not believe that it will be possible to make a man what you will by pounding his head into a certain shape or by exposing him to certain diseases."

Venison Pie.
Cut steaks from a haunch of freshly killed venison, remove the bones, then dust with salt and pepper. Stew in a very little water until perfectly tender. Have ready a light butter paste; line a deep dish with half of it; put the venison in and pour over it the liquor in which it was cooked and to which has been added a glass of wine, a few blades of mace and a powdered nutmeg. Put on the cover, notch around the edges, then bake in a steady oven for an hour. Serve hot.—Ladies' World, New York.

To Keep Ice.
One way to keep ice in the sick-room is to fasten a piece of flannel in a deep tin pan or pail so that it will sag in the middle, but will not touch the bottom of the pail. In this flannel a piece of ice can be put and so wrapped in its enveloping folds that no air can reach it. When small pieces need to be broken off, a pin, preferably a hat pin, can be used.—N. Y. Post.

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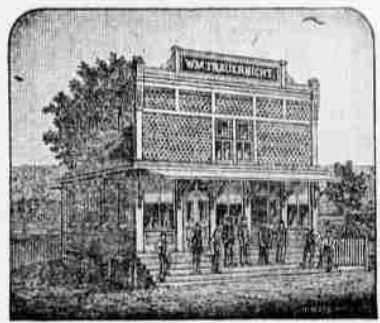
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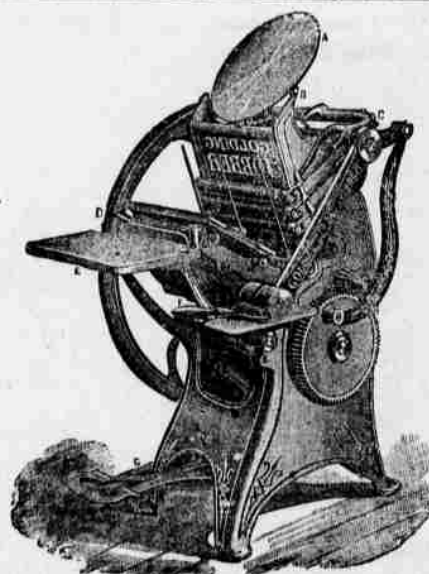
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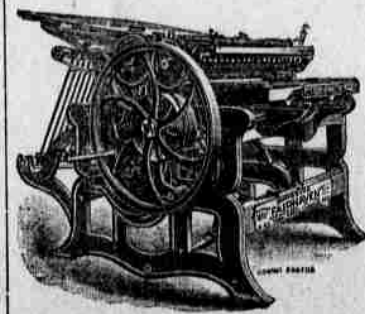
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